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United States
Department of
Agriculture

Forest Service
Southern Region

South Carolina

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SENSITIVE PLANTS OF THE SUMTER NATIONAL FOREST



United States
Department of
Agriculture



National Agricultural Library

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The information provided in this booklet is the results of an endangered, threatened and sensitive plant species contract undertaken by Southeastern Wildlife Services, Incorporated. All photographs were taken by the contractor unless otherwise indicated.

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Schwerin's Indigo Bush

SHRUB



Name: Schwerin's Indigo Bush
(*Amorpha schwerini*)

Family: Pea (Fabaceae)

Flowering Period: April-June

Fruiting Period: June-October

Habitat: River banks and open slopes, mixed deciduous woods. Dry rocky woods, on ridgetops, steep slopes, and river bluffs.

Identifying Characters: Straggly shrubs, usually 2.5 meters (ca. 8 ft.) tall. Mature plants form large clumps with several to many stems arising from the same base. Lower branches usually die first, giving the clusters of stems a bushy-topped appearance. Any indigo bush which has hairy ovaries (in its flowers) or fruits and is a genuine shrub (doesn't die back close to the ground in winter) is probably Schwerini's indigo bush.

County: Abbeville

District: Long Cane



Name: Blackstem Spleenwort
(*Asplenium resiliens*)

Family: Spleenwort (Aspleniaceae)

Spore Formation: April-October

Habitat: Marble rock outcrops and carbonate rock outcrops.

Identifying Characters: Fronds (leaves) erect, evergreen 5-30 centimeters (2 to 12 inches) tall. The petioles (stem to which leaflets are attached) are shiny black. The individual leaflets are opposite. "Look alikes", ebony spleenwort and maidenhair fern have brown stems and alternate leaflets.

County: Oconee

District: Andrew Pickens



Name: Umbrella Leaf
(*Diphylleia cymosa*)

Family: Barberry (Berberidaceae)

Flowering Period: May-June

Fruiting Period: July-August

Habitat: Moist wooded coves and seepage slopes.

Identifying Characters: A non-woody perennial plant about 16-40 inches (4-10 decimeters) tall. The leaves are attached to the leaf stalk on the underside of the leaf, resembling an umbrella. One key character is the leaf size, which ranges from 11.5 to 24 inches (2-5 decimeters) wide, parted into two segments and have many lobes. Flowers are clustered, white, and at the end of a flowering stalk. The fruits are dark blue berries on red stalks.

County: Oconee

District: Andrew Pickens

Smooth Purple Coneflower

FORB



Name: Smooth Purple Coneflower
(*Echinacea laevigata*)

Family: Aster (Asteraceae)

Flowering Period: May-July

Fruiting Period: July-October

Habitat: Cutover roadside banks, meadows and woodlands, usually on basic circumneutral soils.

Identifying Characters: Perennial herbaceous plants with erect stem; 2-5 feet (.5 to 1.5 meters) in height. Plants have vertical taproots, rarely branched, smooth and whitish stems, and ray flowers longer and more slender than a closely related species *E. purpurea*.

County: Oconee

District: Andrew Pickens

Wahoo, Eastern Strawberry-Bush

SHRUB



Name: Wahoo, Eastern Strawberry-Bush
(*Euonymus atropurpureus*)

Family: Stafftree, Bittersweet (Celastraceae)

Flowering Period: May

Fruiting Period: September-October

Habitat: Streambanks, swamp forests and bluffs in basic soils.

Identifying Characters: A shrub to about 1.5 meters (5 feet) high. The closest relative that occurs in the Southeastern area is *E. americanus* from which it differs by having fruits that are smooth and lobed vs. fruits covered with small wartlike knobs. Non-fruited specimens can be identified by the longer leaf stalks greater than 5 millimeters long versus less than 5 millimeters long.

County: Abbeville

District: Long Cane



Name: Small Whorled Pogonia
(*Isotria medeoloides*)

Family: Orchid (Orchidaceae)

Flowering Period: May-June

Fruiting Period: May-June

Habitat: Open, dry, deciduous woods in deep leaf litter wooded slopes, and along streams.

Identifying Characters: Stem greenish or purplish tinged, 9.5-25 centimeters (3.8-10 inches) tall. Leaves drooping, pale dusty green, and glaucous (whitened with abloom). Flowers sessile (without stem) or subsessile; sepals less than 3 centimeters (1.2 inches) long, light green.

County: Oconee

District: Andrew Pickens

Fraser's Loosestrife

FORB



Name: Fraser's Loosestrife
(*Lysimachia fraseri*)

Family: Primrose (Primulaceae)

Flowering Period: June-August

Fruiting Period: September-October

Habitat: Weedy, cut-over roadside, bordering pine woods. Open woods and slopes, river flats, streambanks, moist pastures and sometimes in disturbed soils.

Identifying Characters: Perennial herb erect, .7-2 meters (2-6 feet) tall. Has stalked glands (appearing as small grains of sand or jewels on stems, leaves, and outer flower parts. The flowers occur at the top of the plant, in branched clusters.

County: Ocone

District: Andrew Pickens



Name: Ginseng
(*Panax quinquefolia*)

Family: Ginseng (Araliaceae)

Flowering Period: May-June

Fruiting Period: August-October

Habitat: Rich moist woods from mixed mesophytic to oak-hickory.

Identifying Characters: Herb to 2-6 decimeters (.5-2 feet) tall. Characterized by 1-5 (3) five-fingered leaves which arise from a single stem. Ginseng bears a small cluster of inconspicuous white flowers from the leaf axil, that ripens into a cluster of plump, brightened red berries. The root of this species is fleshy or woody and is single or forked.

County: Oconee

District: Andrew Pickens

Oglethorpe Oak

TREE



Name: Oglethorpe Oak
(*Quercus oglethorpensis*)

Family: Beech (Fagaceae)

Flowering Period: April

Fruiting Period: September-October

Habitat: Low ground of small watersheds and intermittent drainage. May be encountered from upland pine forests and margins of clearcut areas to stream valleys.

Identifying Characters: Oglethorpe oak grows to 80 feet tall (24 meters) and 2 feet diameter (less than .5 meters), breast height. Unlike the leaves of water oak or willow oak, Oglethorpe oak leaves have a yellowish fuzz underneath. The leaves of this species often, but not always, turn red in autumn and change color earlier than associated species.

Counties: Abbeville, McCormick

District: Edgefield

Sun-Facing Coneflower

FORB



Name: Sun-Facing Coneflower
(*Rudbeckia heliopsidis*)

Family: Aster, sunflower (Asteraceae)

Flowering Period: June-July

Fruiting Period: July-September

Habitat: Woodlands, meadows, low ground, roadsides on fine sandy loam soil.

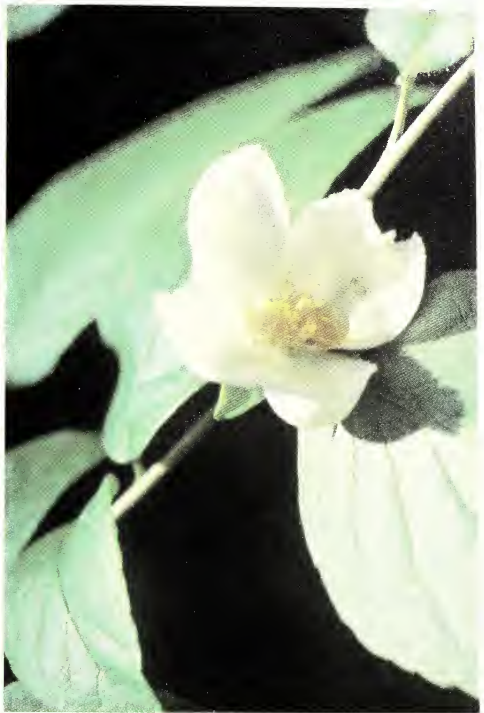
Identifying Characters: Perennial herb with erect, freely branched stems 6-12 decimeters (2-4 feet) tall. Leaves are 5-12 centimeters (2-4.5 inches) long, 2-7.5 centimeters (1.5-2 inches) wide with tooth margins. The leaf-like bracts beneath the flower head are short, about .1 to 2.5-10 millimeters (.4 inches) long. Ray flowers are yellow with the center of the head being blackish.

County: Oconee

District: Andrew Pickens

Mountain Camellia

SHRUB



Name: Mountain Camellia
(*Stewartia ovata*)

Family: Camellia or tea (Theaceae)

Flowering Period: June-July

Fruiting Period: August-September

Habitat: Steep slopes, streamside flats. It usually occupies a discreet zone between hemlock and associated species and more upland oak forests.

Identifying Characters: Mature plants 6 to 20 feet tall (ca. 2 to 6 meters). May have several stems from the base, but sometimes they are small trees. Leaves 2 to 4.5 inches long (.02 to 1.5), pointed at the apex and rounded at the base, grayish green. Flowers white, 2 to 2.5 inches (.02 to .75) across, 5 or 6 petals with fuzzy edges.

County: Oconee

District: Andrew Pickens

American Columbo

FORB



Name: American Columbo
(*Swertia caroliniensis*)

Family: Gentianaceae

Flowering Period: May-June

Fruiting Period: September-October

Habitat: Dryish meadows, rich woods and calcareous slopes.

Identifying Characters: A perennial (that grows from 1-3 meters (ca. 4-10 feet) tall. The leaves are usually in whorls of 3-9 usually 4. Petal lobes are 4, separate nearly to base, rotate, yellowish to whitish, streaked with green, each with a prominent elliptic to obovate green gland in the center which is surrounded by a hairy band.

County: Abbeville, Greenwood and Newberry.

District: Long Cane



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Piedmont Strawberry

FORB



Name: Piedmont Strawberry
(*Waldsteinia lobata*)

Family: Rose (Rosaceae)

Flowering Period: April-May

Fruiting Period: May-June

Habitat: Moist river banks, acidic, shaded, rocky ravines and creek or river bluffs.

Identifying Characters: A perennial herb to 2 decimeters (ca. .5 feet) tall. Differs from the other 2-3 taxa of the southeastern area in its broader leaves which are merely incised rather than divided and in the pubescent (rather than smooth) style bases. Also differs in the extreme length of its rhizomes which often attain lengths of meter or more.

County: Oconee

District: Andrew Pickens



Sensitive Plants . . . Part Of Your National Forests

The National Forests are managed under the Multiple Use system which calls for using the various forest resources in the combinations that will benefit the most people. Protecting sensitive plants is part of this management.

We need your help in locating and protecting these beauties of the forest. Please let us know if you see any of the plants described in this booklet.

Civilization sometimes takes ruthless toll of beauty as it moves forward. The world has lost much that is beautiful in the name of progress.

The responsibility of protecting the beauty that is left belongs to all of us, especially on our public lands. Let's help each other to keep natural beauty a prominent part of the National Forest system.